Price 2d.

THE

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION

MAGAZINE.

No. CXCVIII. JUNE, 1865. VOL. XVIII.

RAGGED SCHOOL
PRECEPT.
Deliver the poor and needy; rid them out of the hand of the wicked
Psalm lxxxii. 4.
PROMISE
And thou shalt be blessed for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just. Luke xiv. 4.

"The word of the Lord endureth for ever."—1 Peter i. 25.

PROFITS DEVOTED TO RAGGED SCHOOLS.

LONDON:
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JOHNSTONE AND HUNTER, EDINBURGH; ROBERTSON, DUBLIN; AND ALL BOOKSELLERS.

* * All Communications to be addressed to the Editor, 1, Exeter Hall, London.
* Orders for Advertisements to be sent to Robert K. Burt, Printer, Holborn Hill.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—The Committee beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of a parcel of Boys and Girls' clothing, Magazines, &c., from Mr. Reade; a parcel of waste paper from Mrs. Ditmas; a parcel of clothing for Lamb and Flag Schools, from "Highgate Ladies' Working Party," two parcels of waste paper, &c., from Mrs. Reade and Miss Loft; a bale of Clothing and materials from Mrs. Symons; and a parcel of waste paper, &c. from Miss Flower.

Parcels of Left-off Wearing Apparel, for distribution to the Children, and for our Industrial Classes, also Books or Magazines for forming School Libraries, will be thankfully acknowledged by Mr. JOSEPH G. GENT, 1, Exeter Hall, W.C.

Parcels of waste paper, old magazines, reports, &c., &c., can be made good use of for the benefit of the Society, and will be thankfully acknowledged by Mr. GENT, 1, Exeter Hall.

We are requested to acknowledge for the *Dove Row Schools* the sum of £6 7s. 6d., being proceeds of fancy work, by Mrs. Taylor and friends, at Bradford-on-Avon.

THE MASTERS, MISTRESSES, & FRIENDS of RAGGED SCHOOLS in London, intend (D.V.) taking their ANNUAL EXCURSION to RICHMOND on SATURDAY, June 10th, 1855. All Teachers and Friends of Ragged Schools are respectfully invited to accompany them.

Trains from Fenchurch Street at 9, 10, and 12, o'clock; trains from Waterloo at 10 and 12 o'clock; fares for the double journey, 1s. 6d.

Teas will be provided at 8, Upper Hill Street, Richmond (by Mr. Hicket). Tickets, 9d. each.

The MISSES GENT beg to inform their friends that they have Vacancies for a few Young Ladies as Boarders on moderate terms. Their School is pleasantly situated near Kennington Park. Pupils committed to their care receive every attention and home comfort. References given and required. The Quarter will begin July 11th, 1865.—88, Camberwell New Road. S.

THE

CALMEL GRAY'S YARD RAGGED SCHOOL,

James Street, Edward's Street, Marylebone.

An earnest appeal for help is made on behalf of this School, which is one of the oldest in London, having been established in Marylebone more than thirty years ago, since which time it has been affording Christian instruction to the destitute children around it, of whom more than 300 are now on the books. The loss of many of its earliest friends by death or removal to a distance, has so reduced the funds that they are now quite insufficient to meet the necessary outlay. The Committee are therefore obliged to solicit the increased support of those interested in this good work. The poor children are given rice and milk dinners during the winter months.

Subscriptions or donations will be most thankfully received by Mr. J. G. GENT, Ragged School Union, 1, Exeter Hall; or by the Treasurer, JOHN FULLER MAITLAND, Esq., 39, Philimore Gardens, Kensington, W., to whom Post Office Orders can be made payable the Kensington Office.

YORK MEWS RAGGED SCHOOLS,

EAST STREET, BAKER STREET, W.

PRESIDENT,

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY.

These Schools have been opened entirely for the poor and destitute, and are supported by voluntary contributions only. Their object is to provide an education for those who otherwise would be without any education at all, and to bring home the truths of the Gospel to those whose position in life renders it impossible for them to attend any place of worship.

In active operation are Ragged Schools—Boys', Girls', and Infants'; Morning, Afternoon, and Evening. Sunday as well as Day Schools. Ragged Church. Sunday and other Services. Lectures, Clothing Club, Penny Bank, and other means of usefulness.

The Committee ask most earnestly for the prompt and generous assistance of all who are interested in the education of the children of the poor, trusting the progress of an institution may not be hindered from want of funds, that has been so largely blessed to the children of this district, having for its grand object their moral, intellectual, and religious elevation.

They look with confidence to the Giver of every good and perfect gift, for a special blessing upon this appeal, believing it will not be in vain when made in behalf of those who cannot plead for themselves.

Contributions will be thankfully received by the Treasurer, J. Robinson, Esq., 32, Devonshire Street, Portland Place; the Hon. Sec., Mr. W. A. Blake, 38, South Bank, Regent's Park, and 4, Trafalgar Square, Charing Cross; and by Mr. J. G. Gent, at the Office of the Ragged School Union, 1, Exeter Hall, Strand.

SPECIAL SERVICES FOR THE DESTITUTE.

Patron.—THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY, K.G.

President.—THE RIGHT HON. LORD EBURY.

The destitute and criminal population of the Metropolis being practically excluded from all respectable Churches and Chapels, arising partly from the unsuitable or inadequate accommodation provided for them, and from their peculiar habits of life, and consequent aversion to religion, the Ragged Church and Chapel Union was established with the especial object of promoting the worship of God among those who live in the dark haunts of poverty and crime. In these retreats the Society has now upwards of 50 Stations where the Gospel is faithfully preached.

So acceptable have these Services proved themselves, and productive of such good results, that the Committee appeal with confidence to the Christian Public for increased means, that these efforts may be abundantly increased and multiplied among the poor of London.

Contributions will be thankfully received by the Treasurer, A. Sperling, Esq.; Hon. Secretary, J. A. Merrington, Esq.; by Messrs. Nisbet, Berners Street; Hatchard, Piccadilly; Seeley, Fleet Street; the Bankers, Messrs. Smith, Payne, & Smith, 1, Lombard Street; and by the Secretary, Mr. W. A. Blake, at the Office of the Society, 4, Trafalgar Square, Charing Cross.

The ANNUAL REPORT for the past year will be forwarded post free, on a line being addressed to the Secretary.

CANADA and ITS FRONTIER,

by J. K. Low, F.G.S., late Naturalist to the North American Boundary Commission; with reference Map. See LEISURE HOUR for May. Price 6d.

THE DANTE CELEBRATION.

The LEISURE HOUR for May contains an Engraving, on toned paper, of Ary Scheffer's Picture of "Dante and Beatrice;" also a Portrait of Dante, from Giotto; a Biography, and an Analysis of the "Divina Commedia;" with Illustrations of Florence and the Old Palace, and Papers on the Old and the New Capitals of Italy. Price 6d.

SIR MOSES MONTEFIORE.

A Biography and Portrait. See LEISURE HOUR for May.

THE ROYAL LITERARY FUND;

its Origin, History, and Progress. By the Author of "Men I have known." See LEISURE HOUR for May.

THIEVES IN THE CITY.

For Suggestions see LEISURE HOUR for May. Price 6d.

IRON SAFES—

their Structure and Security. See LEISURE HOUR for May. Price 6d.

THE FREED NEGROES IN AMERICA.

See LEISURE HOUR for May. Price 6d.

THE DUBLIN EXHIBITION.

With Engraving. See LEISURE HOUR for May.

THE LEISURE HOUR

for April contained a coloured fac-simile of the Picture of "The Battle-field," by the Crown Princess of Prussia, with descriptive letter-press, and Memoir.

56, PATERNOSTER ROW, AND 164, PICCADILLY.

J. E. EAREE,

BREAKFAST AND TEA CONTRACTOR,

127, HACKNEY ROAD, NEAR SHOREDITCH CHURCH.

J. E. E. respectfully begs to inform the Clergy, Superintendents of Schools, and others who are in the practice of commemorating their Anniversaries, etc., by Public Breakfasts and Tea Meetings, that he has every requisite for such occasions, comprising Tables, Coppers, and China to any extent, in a superior style, at extremely moderate charges.

J. E. E. tenders his sincere thanks to those ladies and gentlemen who have hitherto favoured him with their kind patronage, and hopes by strict attention to ensure a continuance of the same; he also begs most respectfully to solicit the favour of their recommendation.

Rout Seats on Reasonable Terms. Vans, and every requisite for Excursion Parties, with the entire Management, taken by Contract

COMMUNICATIONS BY POST IMMEDIATELY ATTENDED TO.

References are kindly permitted to be made to the Secretaries of the Ragged School Union and the Temperance League.

"EXCELSIOR" "EXCELSIOR"

FAMILY SEWING AND EMBROIDERING MACHINE

Is easy to operate, simple to learn, quiet in action, and not liable to derangement. It will TUCK, HEM, FELL, GATHER, CORD, QUILT, BRAID, and EMBROIDER, sew from two ordinary reels, and the seam, if cut at every inch, will not rip. Price, from £6 6s.

The New STAR PATENT IMPROVED DOUBLE ACTION ARM MACHINE for Bootmakers and Manufacturers generally. Complete, £10 10s.

WHIGHT and MANN, 143, Holborn Bars, London.

MANUFACTORY: GIPPING WORKS, IPSWICH.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY, £87 2s. 0½d.

BROOK STREET
REFUGE AND RAGGED SCHOOLS,

Henry Passage, Henry Street, Hampstead Road.

ESTABLISHED 1843.

OPERATIONS.

Industrial Refuge for the reception of 34 destitute boys.

Free Day School,	Attendance, 96.
Sunday Schools,	„ 300.
Sunday Evening, Adult Service	„ 75.
Monday Evening, Free Lectures,	„ 150.

Tuesday Evening, Penny Banks, 700 Depositors.

Thursday Evening, Mothers' Meeting, 40 Members.

Ditto Loan Library for Children and Adults.

Friday Evening, School for Boys.

At the Twenty-first Annual Meeting held on Tuesday, April 25th, in the School-room, the Report showed that, owing chiefly to the additional expenses incurred during the outbreak of Fever, in May, 1864, there was an adverse balance of £97 2s. 0½d.

Sir R. W. CARDEN (the Chairman) feeling the difficulties with which the Committee had to contend, generously promised **£10, on condition** that the remainder of the amount owing was raised by extra donations before the expiration of six months.

The Committee therefore earnestly appeal to all friends of Ragged Schools to help them in this time of need.

Donations for this purpose will be thankfully received by Mr. J. G. GENT, 1, Exeter Hall, or by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. T. E. WAY, 29, Wigmore Street, W.

MOST URGENT.

BLUEGATE FIELDS
RAGGED SCHOOLS AND CHURCH,
SHADWELL, E.

These Schools were established in 1857, and are situate in a most sunken neighbourhood adjoining the notorious Ratcliff Highway. Nearly 300 destitute and neglected children, but for these schools, would go altogether untaught. These little "outcasts" for the most part belong to intemperate dissipated parents, who leave them to wander about uncared for, and in many instances scarcely clothed.

The Committee are now compelled to Appeal for Funds, to carry on this great and good work.

"Help is much needed."—PSALM xli. 1—3.

Donations thankfully received either by Mr. J. G. Gent, Ragged School Union, 1, Exeter Hall; or W. H. HATCHARD, *Hon. Sec.*
No. 7, Albion Terrace, Commercial Road, E.

FRIENDLESS AND FALLEN.

LONDON FEMALE PREVENTIVE AND REFORMATORY INSTITUTION.

PRESIDENT, REV. CANON DALE.

The following contributions are gratefully acknowledged:—W. Hornby, Esq., £1; P. Selby, Esq., £5; Mrs. Poole, £5; J. S. Pettybridge, Esq., 10s.; Rev. Jas. Cooper, £5; C. Hudson, Esq., £2; Thomas Carter, £1 1s.; Rev. J. H. Malpas, 10s.

When all the Homes in connection with this Institution are full, 3,000 meals per week have to be provided for the support of Inmates; and for this one expense, as well as every other, the Committee are absolutely dependent upon daily Voluntary Contributions.

Contributions in Post-office Orders, Cheques, &c., will be thankfully received by
Messrs. BOSANQUET & Co., Bankers, 73, Lombard Street, E.C.
FRANCIS NICHOLLS, Esq. (of the Committee), 14, Old Jewry Chambers, E.C.
Mr. E. W. THOMAS, Secretary, 200, Euston Road, N.W.

NICHOL STREET

Ragged Schools, Missions, and Working Men's Club,

BETHNAL GREEN.

These schools, established in 1843, are situated in one of the most destitute districts of London. Commencing with one room, the work steadily grew, until the one became sixteen; but then dilapidations became so serious, that in very self defence they had to be given up. Freehold land close by, amply sufficient, was fortunately obtained by the Committee, at a cost of £850, and a portion of the land was covered with plain school buildings, which were opened free of debt. But from the dense population of the district, and the number of the children (about 1,200) crowding into the schools, still further accommodation is absolutely necessary.

But by these efforts, and by raising about £300 a year for the support of the School and Mission, the Committee and friends of the school, who mostly live three miles distant from the scene of their work, and have no special connection with the neighbourhood, have done what they can, and are now compelled to appeal to others for the assistance necessary to complete their plans by covering the vacant piece of land in their possession.

In this the Committee have the cordial approval and assistance of Lord Shaftesbury and the Rector of Bethnal Green.

One thousand pounds is still wanted, and towards this donations will be thankfully received by Mr. GENT, Secretary Ragged School Union; or by

HENRY SPICER, Jun.,
19, New Bridge Street, E.C.

Papers, Original and Selected.

COMING OF AGE.

It is a pleasant time when the heir of an old historic family comes of age. As in the ancestral hall, grey with age, and haunted by many a strange memory, so in the humblest cot, all are jubilant on this village high day. Banners flutter from steeple and tower; the church bells throb out their merriest chimes; whilst old English fare smoking on the deal table of the peasant tells that the hero of the day has not forgotten the claims of his lowlier brethren. Religion, too, is invoked to sanctify the day; and thus in the village church, grey with time even before the lordly hall was built, the anthem rises to Him who permitted the heir to attain his manhood. Yet hopes and fears flecker the scene with their light and shade, for one who may prove either a public blessing or a public curse has now entered on the great battle of life. Let us hope that the music which hailed his coming of age will be followed, as in the case of that popular king, Asa, with (2 Chron. xvi. 14) "a very great burning" of incense when his life's work is over, and it only remains to be reviewed by the Unerring One.

And what applies to the heir of an old historic family, equally applies to the coming of age of a great philanthropic or religious society. When it has attained its twenty-first year, it naturally becomes a time of retrospect, and we are invited to review its history, its purposes, and its doings, its failures and its successes. The plans are no longer tentative; but, tested and criticised for twenty-one years, it is now known whether they are fitted to fulfil the objects of the projectors. Many plans during so long a period must have been tried and have failed; and many a scheme, not even thought of at the commencement, must have been suggested as the work and the workers came under review. For, give but life, and growth follows as by a natural law.

Such is eminently the case with the Ragged School Union. It has now come of age. After twenty-one years' steady growth, it stands forth a tree of goodly proportions, bearing on every bough the "leaves which are for the healing of the nations." To God be

the praise, who hath caused this tree to flourish in the most sterile soil that this fallen world presents.

Let us glance back at the year 1844, when the Ragged School Union stood forth as a *fact*. There were then about twenty Sunday Ragged Schools in London, and not one in the provinces. In most of these, disorder reigned as king; for not only were the labourers too few for the task they had undertaken—namely, to fight Satan on his own chosen battle-ground—but the very methods of disciplining those whose rough exteriors were but external signs of the disorder reigning within, had yet to be discovered.

Confined as the infant effort was to the Lord's Day, the work was partially abortive. There were then none of those Night Schools which have proved so valuable a feature in our machinery. Thus rough lads, and often still coarser girls, who regarded the very idea of religious instruction as a capital joke, were taught the way to heaven on the Lord's Day, and learnt the way to hell the rest of the week. But Night School after Night School was established, till now we have 204 of these valuable agencies, with 11,063 scholars enrolled, and 8,096 in nightly attendance.

But even then there were no Day Schools. Like many of our most effective plans of social amelioration, this scheme was an afterthought; for it was soon seen that when only three hours on Sunday were dedicated to their religious instruction, it was utterly impossible to compete with the street education—or, rather, home mis-education—of a week. Catch the bird when young if you would train it according to your liking, says common sense; and thus the Ragged School workers learnt that the best way of causing man to perform his duty to God and to society, was to so regulate the infantile mind that virtue might become a *habit* as well as a principle. It was this that suggested our Day Schools, the first of which was not begun till 1864. This list has been gradually added to, and now there are 196 Day Schools, with no less than 25,594 scholars enrolled, and a daily attendance of 18,939.

Nor even then was the work for children fully done. Hundreds were homeless, and hundreds more were orphans, or had such parents that they had better have been without the parental control of those who cared less for their offspring than the beasts that perish. This gave the *hint* to establish Refuges, where houseless orphans, or the children of criminals, might be rescued from haunts of depravity and be taught to win honestly their daily bread. This experiment being successful, the further question was suggested, whether it

would not be better to place the juvenile criminal in a Reformatory than to subject him to the contamination of a jail. Though at first laughed at, Reformatory after Reformatory has been established throughout the length and breadth of the land, to the admitted benefit of the individual, and to the still greater advantage of society.

But when the Ragged School Union was projected twenty-one years ago, little hope was felt of the social and spiritual reclamation of adults. In them the reign of Satan was displayed in all its giant hideousness, and they were given up to sin, as if their normal condition was to let passion predominate over reason, and the spirit to be governed by the flesh. In this the truth was forgotten that, as is the parent, so, as a rule, will be the child, or the parents of our London pariahs would not have been so neglected. That they served Satan with heart and soul was a fact that was too patent; nay, they served their master, Satan, with a zeal which cried shame on the half-hearted way in which too many Christians serve their master, Jesus. But when it was seen how the Gospel reached the hearts and civilized the manners of lads and girls almost embruted, it was suggested whether the same Gospel might not reach the souls of adults, steeped to the lips in vice though they might be. This led to the establishment of Mothers' Meetings, where the mothers were shown how to train their children for God, and taught that if they would wean their husbands from the pot-houses, they must first make their homes attractive. Twenty-one years ago there were no such meetings, but now there are 89 Fathers' and Mothers' Meetings, with 2,481 attendants.

But even then our work for adults was not fulfilled. For who, twenty-one years ago, thought that the outcast and the vagrant would listen to the everlasting Gospel, even if suitable places were opened? It is true that the Christian Lawgiver had said, "Preach the Gospel to *every* creature;" but, like the parallel command, "Occupy till I come," it had been forgotten or disobeyed. When, however, some Ragged Schools were, about thirteen years ago, opened for the public testimony of the life that is in Jesus, it was speedily found that hundreds of these poor wayfarers "hungered and thirsted after righteousness." The fact that 5,000 are now congregated in our Ragged Churches shows powerfully that in the darkest alleys, and amongst the most degraded classes, there are those of whom it may not only be declared, "the people is hungry, and weary, and thirsty, in the wilderness" (2 Sam. xvii. 29), but those who need,

and *know* they need, the bread of life. Many of these are still as God's lights in the desolate places where they dwell, whilst hundreds have arrived safely in their Father's house, who first caught the tidings of redeeming grace in our Ragged Churches.

Space fails us to tell of Penny Banks, Libraries, Clothing Clubs, Industrial Classes, Shoe-black Societies, and the other healthy offshoots of the Ragged School system, none of which existed for the outcast or the destitute twenty-one years ago. When, then, we trace the way in which the hand of God has led us to our present position, we may well adore Him who suggested the work, and equipped Christian men and women for this difficult undertaking.

But, as in the case of the coming of age of the heir of an ancient family, our outlook is not merely retrospective, for it necessarily leads us to look onward. We can trace what, through the Divine blessing, has been accomplished; but we are also led to ask ourselves —what are we going to do during the coming twenty-one years? In fact, more will now be expected from us by society than could be reasonably expected in the days of our nonage. For twenty-one years ago we were groping in the dark, not so much after principles as after methods, since we had scarcely any precedents to direct our course of labour. But now we have tried most available plans, and know what we may justly expect, and, what is still more important, what *not* to expect.

That our work, after twenty-one years' diligent and prayerful labour is not yet finished, who that visits our courts and alleys, our foul slums and our fouler dens, can doubt? Thieves' colleges still exist, where Professor Fagin teaches youth that crime is only infamous when it is detected, and that he who can rob without discovery deserves the applause of his social circle. Gaffs and low concert-rooms still abound in the New Cut and the Mint, where vice stalks forth in all its paint and glitter, and where females are ruined, if they were ever really virtuous, before they knew the terrible meaning of the word. Sensational tales, where vice is usually palliated, and crime invested with a halo of romance, form the staple of the reading of the youth nurtured in the dark by-ways of this great city. The devil, then, is busily at work; and woe to Christians if they slumber! for it was when the husbandman "slept that the enemy sowed tares."

One fact alone will show that, grateful as we are for what has been effected, this battle with social vice and misery is not yet won. At the last census, it appeared that the population of London had

increased 440,000. It is now estimated that this great Babel of sin increases, partly by birth and partly by immigration, above 50,000 per annum, or nearly double the number attending our Ragged Schools. It is to this increase of population that we refer the gradual increase in the number of the London Ragged Schools, and our enlarged operations during the past seven years. For during that period alone fourteen new institutions have been established, and the week-day scholars have increased nearly 4,000. Even during the past year there were no less than seventy new operations, including thirty-two Sunday, Day, or Night Schools.

Again, by statistics carefully collected and as carefully sifted, we are led to the impression that with 30,000 scholars in Ragged Schools, there are 30,000 more who *ought* to be scholars. It is thus seen that at best our work is only half done; since for every child in school there is one outside. If, however, they remain outside, they will continue a fertile seed-plot of evil, wafting their moral miasma far and wide, and effectually preventing the fulfilment of the task we have undertaken. All, then, whether our glances be backward or forward, seem to recall the words of the Lord to Moses, "Speak unto Israel, that they go forward."

But how can this be done unless more labourers, fully equipped for this great Home Mission, proffer their services? The scholars, old and young, parent and child, are waiting for our moral shelter, and reapers are alone wanted to garner the richest spiritual harvest ever vouchsafed to man; for the whole twenty-one years' history of the Ragged School Union fully shows that, given the Ragged School, and an abundant crop rewarded the worker. So will it be during the term upon which we have entered; for it is not too much to affirm, that when our Lord said, "Go out *quickly* into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind," it was not that it might be a message of condemnation, but rather in order that "his house might be filled."

Let us, then, now that we have arrived at man's estate, with all the responsibilities thereby entailed, labour more assiduously to reclaim the heathen of our great cities. Twenty-one years' experience fully shows that the Gospel is the only moral lever of society; and that it is as powerful now as when our Master taught by the seaboard of Galilee, and the "common people heard him gladly." It is in his strength alone that we undertake this great work; for

man's converts must fail, but God's never. Let us, then, ever look upward, in order that we may go forward.

"Onwards ever, backwards never,
Let this be your one endeavour;
Your God to serve, strain every nerve,
And do not from the Gospel swerve."

THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY

OF

THE RAGGED SCHOOL UNION.

ABSTRACT OF REPORT.

THE Committee of the Ragged School Union present their Twenty-first Annual Report to the friends and subscribers of the Society, and in looking back on the progress of the movement for these twenty-one years, and recollecting its humble origin, are not only led to see the mistake of those who "despised the day of small things," but would gratefully exclaim, "What hath God wrought?" For what at first was an experiment, and by many deemed utopian or hopeless, has proved, by God's blessing on persevering effort, one of the most useful institutions of the nineteenth century. The establishment of the simple Ragged School led the way or pointed out the necessity for other efforts for bettering the condition of the poorest and most neglected portion of the people, and by the working out of which, tens of thousands of Britain's children have been benefited for "the life that now is, and," it is hoped, also, for "that which is to come."

To keep the schools down to the class for which they were established has ever been an earnest endeavour of the Committee and Officers of the Society. That the schools are thus kept to the class they fully believe—notwithstanding the exceptions that will always exist—is clearly shown from local reports.

The need for Ragged Schools, after twenty-one years' effort, is clearly seen, and it is feared they must no longer be considered tentative, but for the future rank among the permanent institutions of the country.

During the past year, new buildings have been erected for Ragged Schools, in Elder Walk, Islington; East India Road, Poplar; Dove Row, Hackney Road; Chapel Street, Stratford; and Francis Street, City Road. Other eligible buildings have been secured, and are now used for Ragged Schools, in White Cross Place, Finsbury; Colonnade, Clare Market; Moore Street, Bryanston Square; and Clipstone Street, Portland Road.

SCHOOLS AND SCHOLARS.

	Scholars.
The number of School Buildings is 173, in which are conducted 213 Sunday Schools, with an average attendance of	23,277
196 Day Schools (25,594 on books), with an average attendance of	18,939
204 Evening Schools (11,063 on books), with an average attendance of	8,096
Making a total of 613 Schools, and an attendance of . . .	50,312

The improvement among the monitors and scholars has often been taken as an indication that the children are not the class for whom Ragged Schools were established, forgetting, perhaps, that this result has been largely worked out by the children themselves, by means of

CLOTHING CLUBS,

to which they have subscribed during the past year a sum of £1,057, but more especially by

THE INDUSTRIAL AND SEWING CLASSES,

where the garments have been mended, made, and re-made, to an extent that remodelled the appearance of the school, and greatly added to the comfort of the scholars, preserving health and helping to reduce the death-rate. This happy change has been much assisted by the donations of left-off clothing sent to the Office of the Union and to the schools. The number of articles sent to Exeter Hall during the last year exceeded 2,000, which were sorted and sent to those schools where they were most needed. Portions have been reserved to form outfits for those leaving school for situations.

The number of

SCHOLARS GOING INTO PLACES

from the schools every year is very large. The exact number cannot be ascertained, but records have been kept of 1,920 who became servants last year.

To induce these young people to keep in place without unnecessary changes, and to gain good characters, the Committee have for twelve years awarded

SCHOLARS' PRIZES.

During these twelve years the total number of prizes given has amounted to 6,996, of which 4,105 were to boys, and 2,891 to girls. The average for each year has been 583 boys and girls. On the last occasion the total number of applicants for prizes was 570, of whom 520 were successful. Of this number there were 212 boys, and 308 girls. It is gratifying to state that of that number 93 took prizes on former occasions, and some of them for the third or fourth time.

Another means for the formation of character and promotion of self-help, is that of

PENNY BANKS,

of which there are 87 in full operation, the number of depositors being rather more than 16,000. The balance, at the close of the year, belonging to them in these banks, was £1,189. The want of provident habits among the very poor is well known; this partly arises from the want of a place of safety for their money, as well as from the want of economy and forethought in the use of what they possess. The Penny Bank and the Farthing Bank is just the institution that meets the necessity, and becomes an engine of social benefit.

THE BANDS OF HOPE,

too, have been the means of great benefit to poor children. Their object is to gather the children together, to impress upon them the evils of intemperance, and to show them the way by which those evils may be avoided. These Bands of Hope have a goodly number of 3,915 boys and girls protesting against intemperance, and not without good results, as, in many cases, through the children's example, the parents have been induced to become firm abstainers.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES

have been encouraged, and between sixty and seventy schools possess Lending Libraries, having in the aggregate 10,891 volumes.

MOTHERS' MEETINGS

continue to be of great service, and are attended by about 2,300 persons. They mostly meet weekly, and are presided over by two ladies; one to attend to the details of the needlework, the other to read aloud some suitable book during the time the busy needle is being plied.

The cultivation of plants and flowers by the children of our schools and their parents, has proved to have a refining, softening, and moralizing effect. The teachers are therefore more generally turning their attention to the subject, and with a view to extend this benefit have, during the last year, promoted

FLOWER SHOWS.

In country places, where every cottager has a bit of ground, plenty of warm sunlight, and abundance of fresh air, the Flower Show has been held with signal success; but in towns, and especially in London, where there is no garden ground, where the air is impure, and where the sun's rays penetrate with difficulty the dust and smoke, it was doubted whether a similar effort could be successful. The first experiment was made in 1860, in the locality of Little Coram Street Ragged School, and repeated in the following year with marked success. Since that time Flower Shows have been held in connection with the Fitzroy Market, Lamb and Flag (Clerkenwell), Robert

Street (Lambeth), Rufford's Buildings (Islington), Nichol Street, and other schools.

COUNTRY EXCURSIONS.

During the last summer nearly the whole of the schools arranged to give the scholars a day's holiday in the country. They were taken by railroad, steamboat, or van, to such favourite places as Epping Forest, Greenwich Park, Hampstead Heath, and Richmond Park. It is estimated that about 20,000 children were made cheerful, glad, and grateful at a small cost, considering the large number benefited. It is right to add that in nearly every case the expense was raised specially for the purpose. To assist the smaller and less known schools to a boon of this kind, a small fund was gathered by the kind influence of Lord Shaftesbury, and which was the means of 1,400 children going to Richmond Park, on August 19, accompanied by three bands —one from a Ragged School, another from a Refuge, and a third from a Reformatory.

Your Committee, with very peculiar pleasure, report the great kindness shown to Ragged School teachers by their friend and helper, Henry E. Gurney, Esq., in inviting them to spend a day at his house at Nutfield. These visits began in 1857, by first inviting the teachers of the schools in the East of London, and then continuing them till the whole in London had been invited. The list was completed in 1863. In those seven years nearly 3,000 teachers and friends have been hospitably entertained by that Christian philanthropist, at his beautiful home on the Surrey Hills. Last year Mr. Gurney renewed his invitation to the teachers of the schools in the East of London, and has kindly intimated that it is his intention to continue it till the round of invitations has been again completed. Your Committee feel that such special kindness demands the special thanks of the entire body of teachers and friends.

THE SHOE-BLACKS

have now been in operation 14 years; in the first of which the receipts were only £650, but in the last of those years the earnings were ten times as much, namely, £6,563. The total earnings of the boys belonging to the different brigades amounted to the noble sum of £49,606.

THE RAG COLLECTING BRIGADE

has been usefully pursuing its operations during the past year. The experience acquired in the two preceding years has enabled its officers to carry on a larger trade at a less cost:—

	Weight of Goods collected.			Bottles.	Value paid.			Wages paid.
	Cwt.	q.	lbs.		£	s.	d.	£
1862 ...	1,640	3	27 ...	4,151 doz. ...	680	10	8 ...	423
1863 ...	3,554	1	13 ...	7,287 „ ...	1,677	9	9 ...	770
1864 ...	4,368	2	25 ...	4,982 „ ...	2,164	7	8 ...	651

The number of boys employed has been 33, who have worked 8 trucks.

THE REFUGES AND EMIGRATION.

The Capitation Grant of £3 per year towards the expense of supporting in a Refuge a scholar admitted from a Ragged School, is continued by your Committee; and aid is continued to be devoted towards the expense of sending to the British colonies, mostly to Canada, those youths who, from their connections in this country, it is advisable to send abroad. The number, however, that have made application for this aid, is not so great as in former years. Home employment has been more general, and the proximity of the great civil war to Canada has much lessened the desire to risk the dangers of exchanging England for the American continent.

The plan of giving -

A SUBSTANTIAL DINNER

once a month by Victor Hugo, to the sickly and weakly poor of Jersey, and afterwards adopted with such good results by some physicians in Paris, has been tried in a few of our London Ragged Schools; the expenses have been mostly paid by some few benevolent persons desirous of testing the experiment on the London poor, with this difference, that instead of giving it monthly, they supply *the dinner fortnightly* to fifty children, one half of that number one week, the other half the following. At present the plan has not become general; it has, however, been tried in different parts—in Westminster, in Clare Market, in Kentish Town, and in Brewer's Court, &c.

In relation to the

FINANCES,

the Committee have much pleasure in reporting favourably. The claims of the schools and the Parent Society have been considered by several friends, who have kindly left legacies, one of whom bequeathed a sum of £500 to Lord Shaftesbury for the purpose of aiding the schools in Westminster. That sum (less the duty) has been appropriated by your Committee, with his lordship's approval, towards putting the school buildings in Westminster into a clean and healthy condition, towards paying off any debt that may have accumulated from deficient income, and towards sustaining the present operations in proportion to the extent they are carried on.

Another lady has placed a sum of £200 at the disposal of your Committee, for the special purpose of providing outfits for boys on becoming apprentices or obtaining situations, where they are likely to find self-support. Nine other friends have during the past year assisted the Society by bequests amounting in the whole to £1,370 5s. 3d. By these means the Committee have been enabled, with the ordinary resource of subscriptions and donations, to meet all demands made upon them, to keep up all the annual grants promised to the schools, now amounting to £2,487 1s. 8d., without infringing upon the reserve fund formed in the preceding year by the special appeal of Lord Shaftesbury in the *Times* and other papers. The pecuniary aid given by the public to the schools continues to be large, but from the return made, apparently not quite large enough. The schools and refuges expended last year £37,580, and they received £30,239.

In drawing this Report to a close, your Committee would acknowledge the good hand of God pointing out from time to time their path, and enabling them to pursue it during the period of the Society's nonage. Few friends, perhaps, who witnessed its birth expected to see its majority. There are, however, several who have been permitted to witness the coming of age of this great movement, and whose continued services will tend much towards rendering the Society's manhood worthy of its infancy. Chief among them is the noble lord in the chair, who has filled that post on every returning annual meeting for the whole of the twenty-one years, and your Committee pray that his valued life may be long spared to promote the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom, by lighting up the dark places of the earth, by reclaiming the moral wastes of our land, by gathering in the poor outcasts of the human family, and thus hasten on the predicted period when the whole "earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the seas." "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good."

Finally, upon Him whose blessing alone can insure success would your Committee continue to depend and look for guidance in all their future labours. His work they believe it to be; and their greatest encouragement to persevere is drawn from the Master himself, for he has left on record this declaration, that "It is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish."

PROCEEDINGS OF THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE RAGGED SCHOOL UNION.

Held in Exeter Hall, on Monday Evening, May 8th, 1865.

RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY, K.G., IN THE CHAIR.

Among those present were the Ladies Ashley, Hon. C. Ashley, the Hon. A. Kinnaird, M.P., Sir R. W. Carden, Mr. T. Chambers, Q.C., Common Serjeant, Deputy-Judge Payne, the Dean of Melbourne, Rev. Dr. Cumming, General Clarke, Rev. Hugh Allen, D.D., Mr. John Corderoy, Dr. Davis, Rev. H. Killick, Rev. W. Cadman, Rev. W. Robinson, Rev. F. Moran, Rev. A. B. Suter, Rev. W. Tyler, Mr. R. Baxter, Mr. John de Fraine, Rev. J. H. Wilson, Rev. J. Titcomb, &c.

The proceedings were opened with the singing of the hymn commencing "Come, let us join our cheerful songs," and the offering of prayer by the Rev. Mr. SUTER, Bishop Nominate of Nelson.

The Report of the Committee for the past year was read by the Secretary (Mr. J. G. GENT), who also read the Auditor's Report on the Finances.

The CHAIRMAN said,—My good Friends, Ragged School Teachers, Committee-men, Presidents, Vice-Presidents, and every human being connected with Ragged Schools, I now speak to you. Are you aware that this day you come of age? that you have reached riper years, and what are called years of discretion? This

is the twenty-first anniversary of this Association. By God's providence, I rejoice to say I have been permitted to preside at every one of them, and now I have come here to announce to you that you have attained your majority. Well, but our connection must not cease because you have attained your majority, or because I am to be regarded as a respectable father who has put out his children well in a decent, orderly line of life. You may think that you are now released from my authority; but I appeal to you as my children to come forward and give me your support, that you and I together may, under the blessing of God, carry this noble work to its full completion. Now you know that when a young gentleman comes of age in decent circumstances there is no end of bonfires, and bell-ringings, and enormous jollifications. You cannot have the bonfires or bell-ringings, or perhaps the enormous jollifications, but your feast of fat things must be in a short review of all the good that God has enabled you to do, of all the souls that have been saved, all the hearts that have been comforted, and all those who have been rescued from misery and sin, and made to walk erect among their fellows in all the dignity of redeemed creatures. Well, then, not to anticipate the Report, let me just call to your attention, in a very few words, the things that have passed under your review, that have been administered under your care, that have been attained by your diligence, that have had the blessing of God resting upon them, in so marked and signal a manner. That blessing rests there now, equally marked and equally signal, and exhorts us to go on with equal perseverance, saying to us that we shall attain to greater and yet greater triumphs. I believe you may say that, during the last twenty-one years, fully one quarter of a million children have passed under your care. You have done your best to imbue them all with deep religious truth, and your best has, in many instances, by God's grace, been amply successful. You have given them a true, sound, Bible education; you have rescued them from the mire; you have told them what they are worth; you have told them what they are, and what they may aspire to; and you have before you, in these great triumphs, so many hortatives and so many inducements to go on and see if you cannot add to that quarter of a million ten times as many as have yet passed under your care and superintendence. Consider how many good citizens you have added to her Majesty's dominions; consider how many aspirants you have added to the higher citizenship of heaven; consider, too, how great a proof you have established, in defiance of all the ignorance and cold-heartedness that prevailed at the outset of this great movement, of the value of this work. It was said that these children were past all care, past all hope; that they must be left to the gaoler and the hangman, and to their ordinary occupations; that they were a hopeless class, a class from whom you could expect nothing; that they were a foundation on which you could build nothing—a set of miserable miscreants, born, or, rather, spawned into the world to be wretched and miserable, and that they must be left wretched and miserable. The whole of your career, I say, has been a most defiant answer to those wicked propositions. You have raised from the dust thousands of children who were sunk in vice and misery; you have given good citizens to the empire; you have given good children to parents, and good parents to children; you have, in many instances, restored domestic peace and established domestic honour; you have, under God, filled with grace, and truth, and righteousness thousands of your fellow-subjects who were a curse to their country and their generation, and in whose case we are now looking forward with best hopes to the future. Now, I hold that this is a great and mighty achievement. You have been governed throughout by prudence and common sense in all your dealings. I am happy to say that, from the beginning up to the present time, I have not heard of a single school in which

children of extraordinary ability or genius have been trained for a half-yearly or yearly parade before an inspector. Your efforts have been directed equally to the training of the towardly and the untowardly, the bright and the dull, and the result is what I have stated, that you have trained a large mass of children who have been ornaments to their country and to the generation in which they live. Your education has been of a strictly practical character. You have been engaged in training children for the duties for which they were born, adapting them for the line of life to which they were destined, not putting them out of conceit, as it were, with the mean station of life in which they were found, but striving to make them feel in their inmost hearts that, whatever people's condition in life may be, be it the highest or be it the lowest, there can be no greater honour than that of doing one's duty in "that state of life to which it has pleased God to call us." I confess that when I see the wise, sensible, manly, truly Christian mode of education which you have pursued in the case of these children, it makes me more and more out of love with the fanciful systems of education which prevail in many parts of the kingdom. I have mentioned on this platform before, but I cannot help repeating, an illustration of the educational follies which exist in some of the large schools of this country. One day, soon after I had entered a large school-room, the master, desiring apparently to show the great proficiency of his pupils, said to them, "Tell the gentleman the difference between molluscous and pachydermatous animals." I am happy to say that they did not know the difference. Why do I say that? Because it was not their business to have any dealings with such creatures. But in your case children are trained for the performance of the ordinary duties of life, whether as husbands, wives, brothers, or sisters, for the exercise of the moral virtues required for the station in which they were born. If you look at the Book of Proverbs you will find that King Solomon's mother, who gave him the highest advice ever given to a son, said nothing about art or science, nothing about molluscous or pachydermatous animals; but spoke to him about wool and flax, and the management of the household, and all the details of domestic economy. Remember that the great things in which we have to instruct the rising generation are those which fit them for their station; and if after they have learnt them they show any taste for them, there can be no objection to their being taught the decorative parts of education. I confess that in the case of girls in that line of life with which we have to deal, I would much rather know that they could mend a shirt, or darn a stocking, or tell the difference between soap and sugar, between good tea and bad, or make one yard of calico go as far as other people would make two go, than see them learned in such things as I have mentioned. Such knowledge as this is the substratum, the foundation, which is suited to their calling, and after that is secure you may if you please superadd all the ornaments, all the refinements that tend to elevate the intellect, refine the taste, improve the heart, and give a polish to the general manner and bearing. Now, the Report will tell you of many important results; it will go into details with regard to what has been achieved, and I think you will see reason to rejoice when you hear that good has been effected over the whole surface of society simply through the education which has been given to children, when you see how much good has been done for the general improvement of society at large by the Mothers' Meetings, by the Penny Banks, and by the various other means which have been employed. And depend upon it there is no result in which you have more cause to rejoice than the good feeling which has been established among the seething masses of the metropolis. I am satisfied that the institution of Ragged Schools has gone very far to soothe many angry feelings, and to pacify many hearts. I am satisfied, from my inter-

course with large masses of the working people, that thousands of them who have never themselves derived any benefit from the institution of Ragged Schools are gratified, are pleased, are deeply and solemnly influenced, by this mark of respect for the class to which they belong, by seeing that thousands are roused from their long indifference and sleep, and are coming forward to see what they can do in their generation on behalf of those who were previously neglected. Well, now, in reviewing the Report, there is one point on which I must speak with a certain degree of sorrow, and with a still greater degree of misgiving. The old complaint which I have made so frequently here, the complaint which I have made so frequently in different parts of the metropolis, at various schools where I have taken the chair, comes out again in hideous relief. I refer to the increasing deficiency of voluntary teachers. I could hardly have believed it possible some years ago, that in the twenty-first year of the existence of our Institution I should find that there are 500 less voluntary teachers than there were at our Fourteenth Anniversary. This is a very serious deficiency, and it causes deep alarm. You must bear in mind that the whole system of Ragged Schools turns upon voluntary teaching. We have a number of paid teachers, among the very best to be found in the whole world—zealous, true, diligent —I will say unparalleled teachers. But the system cannot rest upon paid services. We have not the funds to meet the demand, and if we had them the system is of such a peculiar nature that it must be governed, it must be bound, it must be imbued, it must be inspired altogether by the voluntary principle. There are many forms of things to which this established principle is applicable; this is one of those to which it is altogether inapplicable. If you adopt it to any great extent, you will go on till you are brought under that which of all things I should most deprecate—Government influence. The voluntary principle is essential to this movement; it requires so much self-devotion, so much zeal, so much taste for the work. There must be more than an ordinary sense of duty; there must be affection; there must be love; there must be a burning desire to save the souls of these poor children; there must, in fact, be an ungovernable impulse to go among them and bring them out of vice, and institute them in the ways of truth and holiness; and this cannot be done by the established principle; it must be done by the voluntary principle, and the voluntary principle alone. I am, however, bound to say for those voluntary teachers who are still upon our list, that their labours have been greatly increased. The appeal that was made by me has not been thrown away, for, although it has not brought more teachers into the field, it has redoubled the exertions of those who were in the field already. But I cannot rejoice in that, for in the present day the energies of our men and women are overtasked; and I would much rather that their labours were limited, and their energies not so strongly applied. I must entreat again and again that more teachers would offer themselves for the work. We have at present barely enough to keep up the state of things that exists; but our desire is to increase the Ragged Schools, and to spread them over the whole metropolis. Although we have 30,000 children under tuition, there are 30,000 more wandering about as sheep without a shepherd. These 30,000 children ought to be brought in, and until they are brought in a large portion of your labour will be in vain, for the evil leaven of the 30,000 who are untaught will materially affect the mass who are taught. Let them go where they will they will find hundreds and thousands who will set them a bad example, and tend to lead them into crime, and to upset in a short time the results of the labours of those who have been brought under your care. It is, therefore, a matter of interest as well as of duty that you should exert all the influences you possess. I know that those whom I have called my daughters—the existing Ragged School

teachers—gladly do everything in their power. And, depend upon it, my friends, that when females give themselves heartily to this work of evangelizing ragged children, the work is done more effectually than it ever could be by all the men put together. We have many instances which show this, but I will not detain you by enumerating them. There are many gentlemen on this platform who could give you instances. My friend Mounstephen, of the Field Lane School, could tell you of the good which has been done by voluntary female teachers in his school. There is, in fact, a gentleness, a tenderness, a softness, in the manner of female teachers that has great power over ragged children, and, what is more, over the roughest kind of men. I have been with my eyes eight, ten, or even twenty, of the most ferocious men that could be got together, as quiet, as orderly, and as obedient under the influence of a female teacher as if a regiment of soldiers or a whole army of turnkeys had been present. Now, my friends, I trust that you will exercise all the influence that you can upon those around you for the purpose of supplying the deficiency in the number of voluntary teachers. See if you cannot each of you bring one additional labourer into the field. If each one of you would bestir herself in that direction, what a mighty array of voluntary teachers might be added in the course of the next month! Do not think that your labour is in vain. I here call to mind a conversation which I had not long ago with one of the greatest thieves in this metropolis. I wanted to know his opinion about the Ragged Schools, I said to him, "Do you know anything about them?" "Yes," he said, "I do." "And what do you think of them?" I asked. What do you think was the answer of that thief? "Oh, my lord," he said, "if Ragged Schools had been in existence when I was a lad, I never should have come to my present disgraceful condition." Therefore you see what the Ragged School system is. It is more than any other system in England a preventive system, and it seems to me to be almost the only preventive system that we have. It is no use harping on the saying, "Prevention is better than cure," everybody admits that, but having got a preventive system in your hands, work it well, and let it not wear out for want of a spirit of hearty co-operation. I trust that there will be no more to regret from this day forth. I trust that no indifference, no pursuit of enjoyment, no love of repose, may check in any way the feelings of zeal or silence the call of duty. I heartily pray God that none of these cold and comfortless feelings may arise to influence the work in this metropolis. I heartily pray that there may be no decay of your zeal, no cooling of your earnestness, no falling off in your energy—that, in short, there may be nothing on your part which can tend, I will not say to destroy, but in the least degree to impair what is, I verily believe, the noblest fabric that ever was erected by Christian philanthropy.

The very Rev. the Dean of MELBOURNE, in moving the first resolution,—"That the Report now read, furnishing such clear evidence of progress and of successful management, be received; and that the gentlemen whose names appear in the printed list form the Committee and Officers of the Society for the year ensuing,"—said that a little more than sixty years ago a few men met in London for the purpose of sending the Gospel to the liberated slaves of Africa. They doubtless expected that God would give them souls for their hire; perhaps the more sanguine dreamed of cities brought under the power of the Gospel—imagined the possibility of an African bishop being appointed and assisting in opening the interior of Africa to the truth; but probably none of them dreamt of any religious influence being brought to bear on the lowest class in the metropolis itself. (Hear, hear.) Yet nothing could be more natural than that the attention of the Church should be directed to home as well as to foreign countries. (Hear, hear.) The example of their blessed Master himself taught them most explicitly not

to neglect those who were near at hand. That evening they were led to consider the position in which they really stood after all the work which had been done. The present age was a practical one; man was taught to feel for the physical as well as the moral wants of his fellow-man; and it became them to look well to their position as a society. He had read many reports, but he had never read one with more unmingled pleasure. The success attained was in itself great; but it was also satisfactory to find that effort had been heaped on effort, and that in each individual case the good-will and the benevolence of others had been called forth, and they had been enabled to use every effort for introducing civilization into their homes, refinement to their tastes, pleasure to hearts that were cast down and ready to sink. But, it might be asked, what was the secret of this success, and what had been the means of bringing the most hopeless of our people to their present condition. It was not the labours nor the wisdom of man, it was not the charm of woman, nor the power of rank or influence—it was not even the mighty power of human love; it was the manifestation of the Gospel of the grace of God that had brought health and healing to these young ones. (Applause.) When the light of God was applied to a soul, moral pestilence disappeared. The benefit of the society has been felt, he was happy to say, not only in the places named in the Report, but in other lands. He would not refer to the difficulties in the way of Scriptural education in Victoria; they were great and many. Through the mercy of God, sound Scriptural education was still given, but under difficulties and restrictions of many kinds, and among those restrictions there was one which, except under certain improved circumstances, was peculiarly disastrous. No child could be admitted to the school without a large regular payment. A lady who was herself in deep poverty saw the evil and determined in God's name to remedy it, and she established what were called at first Ragged Schools, although ragged children did not abound in Victoria. The Scriptures were distinc ly and fully taught in these schools, and the lowest of the population were gathered into them. The Bible was made the basis of education. It had been said that every moment we trod on chords which vibrated to eternity. It might be gratifying to the meeting to know that they had touched chords which responded in harmony from the uttermost ends of the earth. (Cheers.)

The Rev. Dr. CUMMING, in seconding the motion, said, Perhaps it will be asked, while Ragged Schools are such admirable institutions as they have shown themselves to be, what is the precise use or practical value of the Ragged School Union? Ragged Schools are not dependent upon it, but I believe they derive impulse, impetus, inspiration, and direction from it. We find in science the Botanical Society is necessary to stir and stimulate the botanists to fresh and more successful researches. The Geological Society is necessary to impel the geologist to deeper and richer excavations, and to bring up new and more available knowledge to the experience and the minds of mankind. So I believe the Ragged School Union has a directive, stimulative influence upon those schools that are under its episcopal jurisdiction. I will show you one instance of this—and perhaps the best way to advocate it, and to advocate Ragged Schools, is to state facts that one knows, rather than to make a speech which every one may not agree with. (Hear, hear.) I have a Ragged School, honoured by mention in the Report, known by the name of Brewer's Court School. It is in Wild Street, just where three huge parishes meet in a sort of *cul de sac*, and where what seems to be everybody's duty has come to be regarded as nobody's duty. Several years ago we undertook it with a few lay friends, some of whom are on the platform. It was intimated by a friend that the school was not so prosperous as I had been in the habit of representing it to be. I said "I am sure you must be

mistaken, for the superintendent tells me it is so." "I am not mistaken," he said; "and what shows I am not is the simple fact—which with a Scotchman ought to be an overwhelming argument—that the Ragged School Union have threatened to withdraw the £20 a year which they have given to your schools." That being the case, we parted with the superintendent, who was not efficient, not altogether from dread of the loss of the £20, which was, however, pretty deep and very considerable, but because we thought a sublime and noble mission was beginning to fail. We secured a superintendent who has a happy knack of agreeing with everybody who is good, and who has no time from his duties to pick quarrels and set everybody by the ears, as is the case sometimes; but who gives himself wholly, enthusiastically, energetically to his work; and the result has been so satisfactory, and to us so delightful, that when your inspector came the other day to examine our schools he expressed the highest gratification at the great improvement that had taken place, and it seemed to him that the probability was that the Ragged School Union, instead of withdrawing their annual grant, might be tempted by the report to augment that grant a little more. (Laughter.) The fact is, the best rider needs to use his whip sometimes, and the best horse needs a bit and a spur; and the best Ragged School wants, not overlooking, which is a very unepiscopal thing, but over-inspecting, which is a very practical and a very useful thing. The Ragged School needs no eulogy from me, or from this great and interesting meeting. Just as the sun needs not to be proved, but proves himself by shining, so the Ragged School proves itself by its works. Its proofs and its memorials are in the hearts of the wretched, in the homes of the poor, in the streets that were impure and filthy but are now cleansed, and in many a church to the membership of which the Ragged School has richly and nobly contributed. Let me say what I have experienced is the value of the Ragged School in its indirect action—let me say that in the institution I have named, I found that the Ragged School became not only valuable for its own direct action on the minds, the hearts, and the consciences of those who came to it, but because it became the nursing mother of affiliated charities, varied, extensive, practically useful, the limits of the beneficence of which it would be impossible to estimate or to foresee. I found, for instance, when I was led into the district I have mentioned, that there are three courts leading into Wild Street. One of them I had not only the pleasure but the pain—both to taste, and smell, and feeling, and every sense—of exploring. I found the following facts in that court: There are twenty houses, in most of the houses not less than fifty inhabitants; altogether in the twenty-one houses 640 inhabitants, 222 of whom were children. There was scarcely any water supply; the atmosphere could only creep in at chinks by stealth, and the dirt, the pollution, and the smell, it is impossible for the most gifted pen to write, or the most eloquent lips to express. The most remarkable character I discovered in it was a thief, one of the brotherhood to which your lordship referred. He was asked, "What do you do here—how do you live?" He was seated in a little room at the top of the house, with the window open, with a single chair, no table, and not a book or paper of any sort. "How do you live?" His answer was—"By dodging the police." "What do you mean by that?" He said, "I will tell you; I am a ticket-of-leave man. The policeman comes into this house and makes inquiry; I jump from the window into the back garden, leap the next wall, and take up my residence in the next house. When he comes into the second house I have to repeat the experiment and escape into the third." And he said to the missionary who called upon him, "I can tell you I have heard many sermons, but with the exception of two preached by you they have all been in gaols and prisons for the last fifteen or sixteen years." Now, that is one of

the feeding nurseries of our Ragged Schools, and out of it we have obtained many children, and on those children I trust we have left some lasting and saving impressions. Connected with this Brewer's Court, we have instituted what we call a Ragged Church. We have now a regularly ordained minister who preaches to the people every Sunday. He has been so popular as a preacher among the ragged people, that on the last occasion there were nearly 200 present on the Sunday morning. On a previous occasion there were 300, and on another occasion 500, crowded to the doors, and 250 were obliged to be turned away because we had not room to admit them. The only inducement to them to come—I admit it is an inducement, but it is so small that it can scarcely be regarded as such—is this: the instant Mr. Crombie has pronounced the blessing he comes down, and during the four winter months he gives a loaf to every person who has been present in the room, and that loaf is thankfully received. In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, I believe it is thankfully eaten; though in some cases we have found it exchanged for what was a very inadequate and injurious substitute. Let me also state that in connection with this Brewer's Court, Wild Street, we have for some time had a Mothers' Meeting. We have also schools in the afternoon on Sunday, but these, I regret to say, are not so forward as they once were. We feel the want of which your lordship has justly complained, the want of voluntary teachers and co-operative laymen. This is one of the greatest wants that we feel. We can easily get money, we cannot get men. I regret to say there are two of the very committee whose names have been read to you, and who continue to represent the Ragged School Union, who are fugitives from my school. Perhaps I will not call them fugitives; they left because something occurred with which they were not satisfied. But I feel very much in this matter with the Church of Rome. Pope Pius says all baptized men, whether sprinkled or immersed, are his subjects, and if he can lay his hands upon them, he will be sure to bring them back. And so I will say of these gentlemen, "I claim them in the service of my Master, and a most admirable Christian institution, and they must not complain if I lay my hands on them some day, when an opportunity occurs. (Laughter.) We had also connected with our schools a most admirable dispensary. That dispensary was nobly supported as long as the cholera lasted, and disease spread through the neighbourhood, but, just like the rest of our countrymen, the instant the danger ceased, we let the institution drop, and it disappeared. Now I have been sufficiently punished in some respects for that. During the last six months of 1864, there was no superintendent of our schools. I had no laymen to assist me; I had a few ladies only on Sundays, so I began to be a City Missionary from door to door myself. I came into contact with typhus fever, small pox, and whooping cough and scarlet fever, complicated with dirt, and poverty, and starvation, and want. But I am very thankful to God to say, as well as being otherwise excepted, that neither the scarlet fever nor the typhus caught me, nor had I the misfortune to catch them. We also originated in this institution in November last, what has been alluded to in the report, the giving of dinners. Through an appeal to the *Times* newspaper, I received about £270. We instantly laid out £10 in blankets, burning into each blanket "Brewer's Court Ragged School," and telling the possessors that if they would bring back the blankets washed at the end of two years, they would be renewed or others substituted for them. In the first experience of three years this has completely answered, and we believe it will continue to do so. Let me also state that we instituted a dinner once a week. It was a Jewess, the Baroness Rothschild, who suggested that if we gave the children Irish stew once a-week, with plenty of meat in it, potatoes, vegetables, and barley, we should see a marked

improvement in their physique in a very short time. Having plenty of money we commenced the plan, and every Friday at one o'clock we had three hundred children, some carrying their little brothers and sisters in their arms. They sat down to dinner, and during the four months, with the exception of two weeks when I was absent, I have acted as waiter, and done the best I could to please them. (Hear, hear.) People smile at the very idea of beef and mutton and potatoes having a civilizing effect. I believe they have. When the dinners first commenced, the children were so rough, and so boisterous, and so noisy, that we could scarcely get silence during five minutes for grace to be said. In the course of the action of these most necessary elements, they became so civilized that when the signal was given for grace to be said, they were so silent you could have heard a pin fall; and a loud Amen, followed by the clattering of spoons, indicated the enthusiasm with which they entered into the repast. The only objections we met in the course of our experience were two: one was from the parents, who complained that they were as hungry as their children were. We therefore invited all the parents on Christmas-day to have a good dinner of roast beef and plum-pudding, and they had as much as they could eat, and I am afraid to say this in the presence of that noble character Judge Payne, we got an 18 gallon ca ale. As it cannot be recalled, I hope you will pardon it; but let me tell you the poor parents seemed immensely to enjoy it. The only shock I got in the course of the dinner was from one woman who showed an excitement that seemed not to have proceeded from the roast beef and plum-pudding. She got very noisy. Two of the people carried her out, and laid her on a bench in the lower schools. I went to her, and having studied medicine when I was young, I knew a little about the pulse. I felt the pulse; it was almost gone, and I said to the persons about her, "You mistake this poor woman; you have charged her uncharitably with being drunk, and you have turned her out from getting her dinner. I think she is in a fainting state, and I think I shall send for a medical man." She was a gigantic woman, nearly six feet high. She turned upon me and said, "You vagabond, you have taken my dinner from me, and I can't get a bit to eat this day on account of you and your Scotchmen who are here." I saw that my diagnosis was altogether wrong. I resolved to keep her, partly from selfish motives, to see whether it was anything connected with the 18-gallon cask to which the catastrophe was attributable. She told me candidly. She said, "You must forgive me, I was drinking rum all the morning before breakfast, and that is the cause of the miserable plight in which you now see me." She was obliged to be carried home, but the rest of the fathers and mothers enjoyed the treat; and now double the number of children are sent to our schools, and the parents feel greatly gratified by the treatment; and although I cannot safely say that any great transformations of moral character have been achieved, yet I do believe that some good has been done. I feel most deeply with regard to that neighbourhood, that all that education can do will be paralysed as long as their homes are like the lairs of wild beasts, where woman has lost all her glory, and man all his dignity, and the lessons of the school are cancelled by the scenes and horrid associations of the home. But we trust even these will be amended. It is a noble work. I am more in love with the Ragged Schools than I ever was. It is an urgent work, an instant and a pressing one. Neglect it, and you can never recover the ground that you have lost. (Hear, hear.) It was called by the Very Rev. Dean a benevolent work—it is more than that, it is a beneficent work. There are plenty of benevolent people who *bene volo*, "I wish well," but we want benevolent people who *bene facio*, "I do well." It is evidently a Christian work; if any of you wish to show that you have the links of apostolic succession, here is the way to prove it.—

Go and do as the apostles did. Go into the lanes, the hedgerows, and the highways, and compel the ragged and the wretched to come in. And if I should have—shall I say the honour?—of addressing any who are very high Churchmen, and are great advocates of fasting, especially during Lent, let me say, "Well, I can accommodate you. Here is the fast I have chosen. Do thou deal out thy bread to the hungry, take the naked to thy home, and conceal not thyself from thy own flesh. But it is eminently, also, a catholic work. Petty distinctions always crop up where there are petty enterprises to be carried on; but where there is a magnificent issue before us, a grand cause behind us, these distinctions about which Christians quarrel in closets are all lost and merged, nay, burnt up, in the love that marks those who labour in and sustain our Ragged Schools. (Applause.)

The resolution having been carried, the collection was made.

The Rev. J. H. TITCOMB moved the next resolution:—"That the expansive and missionary operations of Ragged Schools, as sustained by this society, appear to meet very many of the necessities of the poor of London, including a sound religious education to the children, opening up channels for their employment, and eliciting their best efforts in service; these schools, therefore, deserve the hearty and liberal support of the British public." He said it was with no little regret that he heard that 500 teachers were absent from the Ragged Schools of the Union, who seven years ago were numbered among them as diligent and laborious workers. The Committee, in the plenitude of their charity, had endeavoured to make an apology for these missing teachers, by saying that their absence was mainly owing to the removal of a large number to distant parts of London and the outskirts of the metropolis. But where were those who ought to have come forward to supply the place of those missing links? Were there not some among those who were present who might step in and fill up the empty places? The fact seemed to teach them that there was a class of professing Christians among them who, while they looked up to heaven and took a great interest in the work of Christian education and the evangelization of the poor, were ready to do so with their upturned look, but were not so ready to do it with the heart and the toiling hand. Let them look at the top man at a saw pit. Those who were with their whole heart engaged in their Master's work in the spirit of intense earnestness and humility, looking to the things beneath them in the lower stratum of society, still were pulling upwards, striving to win souls to Christ, and gather them into the kingdom of heaven. Those who were doing the work of profession only were, in point of fact, pulling downwards, and while they had the name to live, they carried with them the spirit of death; and though while attending meetings like the present they might seem to make some show of labour, yet in truth and reality they were not such full partners in the work of God as they should be, nor would they have the same motive for reward in the world to come. He would give them a word of caution suggested by a remark of Dr. Cumming. They ought in his opinion to be very careful not to let any differences interfere with the prosecution of this great work; above all let a Ragged School avoid Church controversies. Let a teacher be content to teach the children about Christ, and avoid those craggy places which involve Christians in so many disputes. Discouragements were always to be expected in such a work; but for that reason every one should be kept in full vigour. The difficulties of teaching ragged children were very great, in fact, nothing was so difficult as to teach a little child who was the victim of parental neglect; and well, indeed, had Solomon said, "A child left to himself, bringeth his mother to shame." But there were great encouragements in the work. Seventy new operations had been raised up during the past year; 30,000 children were educated, many of them morally improved, and some of

them spiritually blessed. Well might it be said, "What hath God wrought?" As the wild flowers taken into the nursery ground for transplanting into our gardens grew more luxuriantly when they had been trained, these poor children, taken out of the alleys and streets of the metropolis and put into the nursery ground of the Ragged School, were transplanted afterwards to far fairer gardens even upon earth, which were earnest foretastes of that eternal paradise, whither they were to be transplanted in the time to come, where teachers, and pastors, and people, would alike sing the song of redeeming love.

Dr. DAVIS, in seconding the resolution, said there were those who brought it as a reproach against the Christian Church that it directed its energies abroad, and said that it should look and labour at home. If these persons were but to come to such a meeting as the present, they would feel that the reproach was rolled away, for he had never seen so magnificent an assemblage of home missionaries. (Hear, hear.) The Ragged Schools dealt with the Arabs of the London streets, that class whom a Lord Mayor recently called "The pest of the metropolis," and there was not one of them who might not, by God's grace, be made a follower of Christ. In how many cases had such children been rescued from their degraded position! He had before him the case of a little Ragged School girl who was so happy when dying that she said she was happy because she knew that Christ loved her, and in prospect of immediate death exclaimed, as if she knew that angels were waiting to receive her, "I'm coming, I'm coming." Whatever the Anthropological Society might say to the contrary, nothing but God's grace was required to raise the wretched to the highest moral and spiritual elevation. (Cheers.) It should be recollected that Ragged School teachers were taken for the most part from the same class as Sunday-school teachers, and hence the field for recruiting was a limited one; they must go to higher. They must go to Belgravia for additional teachers. There was no reason why titled ladies of the land should not become Ragged School teachers. Supposing that to be the case, they would, surely, amid the elegancies of their drawing-rooms, reflect with pleasure on the good work in which they were engaged. It would have a most beneficial effect on their own minds as well as on the children. They would have learnt the lesson of sympathy and been taught practically that there was no essential difference between persons in different ranks of life. The total separation of classes of society was a great evil, and an intermingling in good works like that of the Ragged Schools, would be found one of the best kinds of counteraction. There was another consideration which had a bearing on this question. The Roman Catholic Church had spoilt every Christian doctrine that it had touched, and hence, one was afraid sometimes to utter a truth lest it should be confounded with a Roman Catholic error; but there could be no doubt that there would be degrees of glory in heaven, and surely a high degree of glory would await those who, occupying an exalted station in society, joyfully took part in the useful and beneficent work of Ragged Schools.

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

Mr. JOHN DE FRAINE moved the next resolution:—"That this meeting, while regretting the loss and removal of some of the good men who so well and so long co-operated in carrying out the society's objects, rejoices to see on this occasion so many earnest labourers still spared to promote the well-being and improve the condition of the poor of London, and earnestly urge them not to lessen their efforts in this good and great movement." He said that when he saw the great assemblage before him, and the illustrious men around him, he felt inclined to say, with a man who had been called upon to deliver a speech in his native town—"Ladies and gentlemen, I beg leave to sit down again." (Laughter.) But he

had been asked to come from his home in Cambridgeshire to say a word or two on the subject of the meeting. It gave him very great pleasure to see so splendid a meeting. He supposed they were all of one mind and one heart in their deep sympathy and earnest regard for the cause in which they were engaged. He could not help loving the cause of Ragged Schools because it removed childhood from neglect and cruelty, from vicious associations and wretched companionships, and led it often to a life of uprightness and honour, to be respectable and useful in life; it taught it to be above meanness and trickery and deception; that a penny well earned was better than £1 badly got; it taught the children to have clean hands and a pure heart, and hereafter, whether they occupied high or low stations, hereafter to stand up like men, doing God's work and giving God the glory. In thinking of a little child many touching and hallowed thoughts would come into a Christian's mind; for 1800 years ago the Redeemer put a little child in the midst of his disciples and told them that if they wished to be fit for heaven, they must become as little children. Some of our most popular modern poets had put garlands of rare beauty on the brows of little children: Longfellow had said—

Come to me, O ye children,
And whisper in my ear
What the birds and the winds are singing
In your sunny atmosphere.
Ye are better than all the ballads
That ever were sung or said,
For ye are living poems,
And all the rest are dead. (*Cheers.*)

Another poet almost more popular than Longfellow had said—

God bless the little children,
We meet them everywhere;
We hear their paces round the hearth,
Their footsteps on the stair.
Their kindly hearts are swelling o'er
With mirthfulness and glee—
God bless the little children,
Wherever they may be.

We meet them in the lordly hall,
Their stately father's pride;
We meet them in the poor man's cot—
He hath no wealth beside.
Along the city's crowded street
They hurl the hoop or ball;
We meet them 'neath the pauper's roof—
The saddest sight of all;

For there they win no father's love
Nor mother's tender care;
Their only friend the God above,
Who hears the orphan's prayer.
But dressed in silk or draped in rags,
In sadness, guilt, or glee,
God bless the little children,
Wherever they may be. (*Applause.*)

He looked at society, however, not merely because it dealt with childhood, but because it dealt with neglected childhood. It was the saddest of all sad thoughts that in these days of enlightenment and manifold privileges, there should be little children with scarcely any of the joy and the beauty of childhood around them. Whilst those present had drunk in that day the air of heaven, thousands of poor little children had drunk in oaths and blasphemies—and would not some of them to-night slip away from the brutality of parents and hide in holes and corners where some present would not like a dog to lie? Home to some of them was hell upon earth, the day all dreary with quarrels, and the night all hideous with despair. He had not observed any reference made to the children of the intemperate, but what wrongs he had seen inflicted on the children of drunkards. They seemed given over to rags and tatters, to cruel taunts and more cruel ridicule. He had seen them creeping up streets to watch one of their dearest relatives battling with imaginary devils. Those who set themselves against this crime were called sometimes bigots and enthusiasts because they fought against the sin that had robbed home of its peace, that had broken women's hearts, and snatched the bread out of little children's mouths. If anything should stir us up to work against that almost unspeakable vice of the country, it was the innumerable army of broken-hearted women and neglected children, their voices choked with wailings and sobs and lamentations. (Cheers.) He admired Ragged Schools also because they trained children to be useful in these days of sentimental pride

and sham gentility. It was proud and healthful work to show children that the best thing to be done was to do what God had called them to do—whether their position were mean or lofty, in that position they might be blessed. There was plenty of ism and ology amongst us, but in nine cases out of ten there was not enough scrubology, sewology, bakeology, boilology, and puddingology. (Laughter.) An appeal had been made for new teachers. If any clergyman wishing to make an appeal upon the subject wanted a significant text, he might take this—"Where are the young men?" Great professions were made about patriotism and love of country, and young gentlemen went and stood up to their knees in water on Wimbledon Common fighting against imaginary enemies; but before we could appeal to a great many young men for teachers, we must appeal for men, for there were a great many young men in these days who preferred a bad ring on their finger and a bad cigar in their mouths to naturalness in their manners and common sense in their actions. If young men only stood on the rock of great principles, and had faith in God and his dear Son in their hearts, they would be powerful enough to roll back a great many of the vices now afflicting society. If they wanted to change the mass they must change the man, and to have national greatness it was necessary to have individual honour. If the young men of the present day were roused up to exertion on their own account, and their sympathies then went forth (as they would do) to the wretched, a brave work would be done, but it must be done in faith, and then the seed sown in sorrow would be reaped in joy. (Cheers.)

Thomas Chambers, Esq., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Joseph Payne moved the last resolution, — "That the noble Lord Shaftesbury, who from the commencement of the Society has been its President, and has now presided at each of its twenty-one anniversaries, is well entitled to the hearty thanks of the nation for his personal and effective advocacy in the cause of Bible truth, of education, of missions, and of every good work that has for its object the Christian elevation of the masses; and that the special thanks of this meeting be given to his lordship for presiding on the present occasion."—He said their excellent friend Mr. De Fraine had told them of a man who began a speech by saying that he wished to sit down again. He (Mr. Payne) began his by saying "Ladies and gentlemen, I ask leave to stand up again," because some of them would remember that he took his farewell leave of the meeting last year, and if it had not been for the special character of the meeting on the present occasion he would not have come forward again. There were four descriptions of persons called upon to speak at public meetings,—first the freezing, then the teasing, then the pleasing, and then the squeezing. He belonged to the latter class, for he had to squeeze his remarks into as small a compass as possible. He wished on the present occasion to indulge in recollections, to rejoice in new connections, to express very warm affections, and deliver a few plain directions. His first recollection was one of twenty years ago, when he first met the noble lord in the chair, at the Jurston Street Ragged School meeting, and made a speech in his presence. His next recollection was his first appearance in a representative character about two years after as an M.P.—not a member of Parliament, but simply as Mr. Payne. His constituency was an extremely small and very uninfluential one, for it consisted of seven poor ragged girls belonging to Broadwall Ragged School, and as their representative he had the honour of presenting to the noble chairman, then Lord Ashley, and to his excellent lady, a purse and a pin-cushion that had been made by those poor ragged girls. The pin-cushion was made from some pieces of silk from the dresses of the nobility and gentry, which had been furnished by the kindness of one of the court milliners at the West End. That

was what he called making both ends meet. (Laughter.) The third recollection was connected with the time when he had a larger constituency, and when he had the honour of meeting in St. Martin's Hall to present to the noble earl a picture of a shoe-black boy, which had been subscribed for by 1,700 of that noble, dauntless, determined, and God-honoured race, the Ragged School teachers of the metropolis. After to-night he should have a fourth recollection, which he gloried in more than all the rest, because it was the last, and because it happened upon the Society's coming of age. He had the honour of presenting to the noble lord a beautiful piece of penmanship, and he considered this was especially appropriate, as his lordship was one of the best penmen in the world. The writing of some noblemen was just as if they had taken a broom handle, dipped it in the mud, and scratched it on the back of a letter; but the noble lord's writing was like his hand and heart, open and clear, and easy to be understood, and not a single person there, peer or pauper, could ever be deceived by it. (Mr. Payne then gave a humorous description of the circumstances connected with several articles of dress which had been presented to him by the children and teachers of various schools.) He said he was very glad to be able to mention these things, because it showed the gratitude which existed among these poor children. No doubt his lordship would like to have the testimonial presented to him in due regular form. He would therefore say—"Know all men by these presents, that I, Joseph Payne, am just about to execute a deed conveying to Lord Shaftesbury and his heirs that most beautiful piece of penmanship, as the strongest possible evidence of the good title which he has to the respect and esteem, the honour and the support of all those who wish well to their country, and especially to the wretched." With respect to rejoicing in new connections, which was usual when persons came of age, he would observe that a new connection had been formed with Mr. Titcomb, and with one of their best friends, the Dean of Melbourne, and also Mr. De Fraine. He expressed very warm affections. The affections, considering the heat of the atmosphere, would necessarily be very warm. He hoped the time would never come when he should cease to love those who loved the Lord Jesus Christ, and the ragged for his sake. The plain directions he would give in a very few words:—"Teach religion's a b c, and learn religion's rule-of-three; save trouble, and give double, and right earnest patriots be." A. "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." B. "Behold the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world." C. "Come unto me, all ye that are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest." The rule-of-three was,—"If the work of God upon earth is so sweet, what will be the work of God in heaven?" Let them look forward to that time, and then save trouble to their fellow-creatures, give double for the benefit of this institution; and he hoped the noble president of the Union might live double, and attain more than the allotted three score years and ten, and even then be found heading the Ragged School movement. Having had his say in prose, he had now got to have his say in verse. He would now read to them his 2,102nd tail-piece.

The "*coming of age*" of a girl or a boy
Is a time of excitement, and feasting, and joy;
Other guests are invited, and tables are spread,
And pleasure pervades both the heart and the head;
And songs of rejoicing, and looks of delight,
Are often continued far into the night.

The "*coming of age*" of a right noble cause
Like *this*, its admirers in multitudes draws;
All sorts and all sizes, all classes and ranks,
Unite in devotion, and giving of thanks;
And their pleasure is great, and their joy is increas'd,
If a Knight of the Garter is found at the feast!

He on it has smiled from its infancy's dawn,
When proud and conceited ones met it with scorn;
He with it has work'd, as it forward has gone,
Its battles has fought, and its triumphs has won

And he will yet cleave to it, faithful and true,
And will smile on it still, as he now does on you.

The "*coming of age*," which we celebrate here,
Requires that our feelings should plainly appear;
And so we combine to present to the man
Who, from the beginning, has favour'd our plan;
With *patience* perform'd, and with *talent* designed,
A working man's work of the skilfullest kind.

The *Factory* girls, with their shoes of thick wood,
The *Shoe-black* Brigades, with their polish so good,
The *Chimney-sweep* boy, from his dangers set free,
And the *Emigrants* sailing across the deep sea;
And verses with which I'll not try to compete,
Because writ by a lady, you in it will meet.

Great friend of the ragged, our leader and chief,
Who oft in our trouble has brought us relief,
Accept it, preserve it, for those who shall bear
Thy name in the future, with tenderest care;
And strong consolation thy spirit shall find
At "*coming of age*" of less coveted kind.

When "*threescore and ten*" shall have vanish'd and gone,
And, because of great strength, thou shalt "*fourscore*" have won;
Still mayst thou *in office* be seen to abide,
And sit in that chair, with thy friends at thy side,
And hear them exclaim, without question or pause,
"God bless the good Earl, and God speed the good cause."

J. P.

May 8th, 1865.

Mr. H. R. WILLIAMS, who seconded the resolution, said it was his duty to say a few words respecting the progress and completion of the beautiful work of art which it is hoped your lordship will be pleased to accept. It was executed by a working man, and had a place in the North London Exhibition. At the outset, when that exhibition was announced, Mr. Cunningham came to him, not knowing what to do, and having consulted him and my friend, Mr. Gent, the latter gentleman kindly gave him certain information which is produced in the design. It was called an illustrated memoir of the Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, and was designed and executed by Mr. Cunningham. It was thought that the best period for presenting it to his lordship would be the occasion when the Union would hold its twenty-first anniversary. He could not tell how many subscribers there were; but he believed that every school connected with the Ragged School Union would give more or less to the memorial, none more than a guinea and none less than a shilling. It was the largest specimen of illuminated writing that had ever been executed in this country. Mr. Williams then gave a description of the testimonial:—The drawings in the four corners of the inner border illustrate four important events in the life of his lordship—The Ten Hours Factory Bill, the Chimney-sweep Boy Act, the Shoe-black Brigade, Emigration. In the top-centre of border is the portrait of Lord Shaftesbury; and at the bottom his crest, and the motto of his house, "Love, serve." Arranged in tablets round the outside, are twelve appropriate Biblical extracts; the memoir illuminated, and written in French round-hand; on ribbon under name, "Precept and promise;" and arranged in tablet at bottom are eight verses, composed by Miss C. F. Cunningham. The wording of the address, he said, was divided into two parts; the one referring to his lordship as Lord Ashley, and the other to his lordship as the Earl of Shaftesbury:—"The nation holds honoured Lord Ashley, who entered upon a Christian career by exercising those self-denying labours to alleviate the hardships of the toiling masses connected with the din of mills, the depth of mines, and the abodes of squalor; by which he removed discontent from the manufacturing districts, promoted domestic happiness, and obtained the enviable distinction of having won the admiration and love of hundreds of thousands of operatives, and at the same time signally illustrated his devotion to the motto of his house, 'Love, serve.'"—"This great philanthropist, as the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G., continues his good work; forlorn outcasts make thankful mention of his name, conscious of having been objects of his

care; Ragged Schools owe their success to his energetic support; under his kind and judicious sanction the shoe-black and rag-collecting brigades have eminently prospered; and zealously has the reformatory movement for juvenile offenders been promoted. Preserving an independent political position for prosecuting without trammels social, moral, and religious reforms, with model lodging-houses, sanitary improvements, banks for the poor, emigration, and many other good works, the name of Lord Shaftesbury stands in the annals of the peerage without a parallel. Such a life, devoted to the amelioration of the condition of the poor, will ever live in the grateful recollection of every English heart." Mr. Williams concluded by requesting the favour of his lordship's acceptance of the memoir in the name of the Ragged School Teachers of London.

Mr. PAYNE, having put the resolution, it was carried by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN said,—My very good friends, when Abraham's sons came to man's estate, he gave them gifts, and sent them into a far country. When you are called to man's estate, you also give me a gift; but I hope it is accompanied with a desire to keep me still with you. (Cheers.) By God's blessing, by his good providence, I have yet a limited amount of strength and an unlimited amount of zeal; and my ardent desire is to devote them to this great cause, so long as there may be found one ragged child wandering over the surface of this vast metropolis. (Great cheering). This is the second time that you have recognised my companionship in your labours, warmly and generously; and upon each occasion you have kindly omitted to notice, what I must notice myself, my real shortcomings—the imperfections of my service. You have assigned to me that which is due to yourselves alone. I often heard the late Duke of Wellington say, when talking of his troops, "It is all very well to call me a good general; but what on earth should I have done without such fine fellows as those?" and these words are applicable to the present case. Now, I say that, although we have not achieved all that we desired, we have achieved a great deal more than we expected. Who could have believed when, twenty years ago, a few persons met together in an upper room in Streatham-street, that their efforts would ever attain such gigantic proportions as we see this day? Consider, for one moment, how it has pleased God to bless your efforts. I cannot but think that it is one great result that we have combined in this work persons of all ranks, degrees, and opinions; that we have brought the Church of England man and the Nonconformist man to a holy and harmonious co-operation in the same work (loud cheers); that it is a great thing that we have reduced the amount of juvenile delinquency; that we have sent so many into safe, honest service; that we have purified so many homes; that we have sent out by emigration so many boys and girls, who have maintained, in distant lands, the honour of their country and the sanctity of the education which has been given to them. These are great things to have attained, and these are for you—for me. Let me say that it is something that I should have obtained a prize in this year of great Industrial Exhibitions. And let me thank my friend, Counsellor Payne, for the manner in which he has spoken of me in moving the address. It is not necessary for me to recal to you—they are deeply imprinted upon your minds and hearts—the character of that man, his earnest zeal, his vigorous piety, his homely wit, his constant good humour, his determination to give himself to a good cause from morning till night, and from night till morning. (Loud cheers.) I say that to no man in the world does the Ragged School movement owe so much as to our friend the counsellor (loud cheers); and, if he prays that my life may be prolonged to the four score years and ten, I pray that his may be prolonged to the age of Methuselah, with all the energy of his mind, all the vigour of his intellect,

all the greatness of his heart, all the lovingness of his spirit, and all the support of friends, whom we now see gathered around him in admiration of all that he has done in the noble cause. (Much cheering.) I must also express my thanks to the lady who has written that beautiful and touching poem. (Cheers.) But I must complain of one thing connected with it: she has laid upon me a very great burden; she has erected so high a standard that it will be a signal mark of God's grace if, in my future life, I do not depart from it. I can but humbly pray, and I trust that all of you will pray, that I may be kept in the course in which I have begun, and that my light may shine brighter and brighter unto the perfect day. (Hear, hear.) Now, these demonstrations are of real importance, of more importance than there is in the pleasure it gives you to indulge a kind and generous feeling towards an individual man, and more than there is in the gratification I feel in receiving this testimony at your hands. I trust that the present demonstration will stimulate many hereafter to adopt the line and to enter on the career, for I cannot hold out to you any prospect of rest, any hope of repose. The evil exists —the evil will exist. You may abate it, you may prevent its increase, but abolish it you cannot in the present state of things. Civilization in its progress will aggregate vast numbers in large cities, and with civilization will come all the pursuit of wealth, and all the enjoyment of it, and the disregard of our fellow-man. This is not necessarily a concomitant of civilization; it is no part of God's providence; it is no law of his; it is imposed by man. Civilization might go on, civilization might increase, wealth upon wealth might be multiplied, enjoyment might be added to enjoyment, and yet the whole of God's creatures might receive that consideration which is due to them as immortal beings. But the fact is that civilization will not bring with it all those alleviations, all those rights, and all those privileges, which should attend it; there will still remain seething masses calling for the energies of your minds, the devotion of your hearts, and your unceasing prayers to Almighty God. I frankly confess that I cannot foresee any termination to this state of things, except in the glorious advent of our blessed Lord. And if that hour shall come, as it will come to many, "like a thief in the night," let it not come so unto you; let it find you engaged in the great work which you have begun, cherishing the orphan, visiting the fatherless, spreading God's holy word, carrying light and life into the deepest recesses of misery and sin; let it find every one of you engaged in your own peculiar department, in the very centre of a Ragged School, dealing to the children their meat in due season, and then by his almighty grace shall you enter into the very fruition of the promise, "Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when he cometh shall find so doing." (Prolonged cheers)

The benediction was then pronounced, and the meeting separated.

A SUGGESTION ABOUT THE NEWSPAPER BOYS.

To the Editor of the Ragged School Union Magazine.

Sir,—It is now about fifteen years since the Ragged School Shoe-black Society was suggested. Three members of the Ragged School Union Committee, in returning from a meeting at Field Lane, formed the plan of organizing Street Shoe-blacks; and very early next morning a little slip of paper was printed, and 500 copies were kindly placed by you between the leaves of the magazine. At least 1,000 readers were thus invited to communicate with me, if the project for this new means of employment and education commended itself to their attention.

In reply to this appeal not one solitary response was received. But the originators themselves began to work in faith and prayer, and they did not long lean upon God's strength unhelped. The tiny little printed slip was shown to Lord Shaftesbury during the busy moments of an important Committee, and his lordship's immediate approval, signified by a silent nod, assured me that we were about a good purpose; and though many doubted, and some derided the proposal, the Society steadily advanced, and soon had vigorous offshoots, until now there are seven or eight brigades in London alone, and thousands of boys have been aided, taught, and blessed by the work thus commenced.

It appears to me very desirable to do something in a similar manner for the ragged boys who now sell newspapers in the streets. It is only since penny papers have become common that these boys have adopted this calling, and it is eminently one in which smart and active lads, honest and of good address, well organized and in proper uniform, could be usefully employed, whereas, under present circumstances, it is painful to see how much rudeness, swearing, and vagrant or listless habits, are attached to the undisciplined life of a newspaper boy, screaming his penny sheet, week-day and Sunday, struggling with his rough and tattered companions, or tired with excitement, herding to sleep in a dirty mass of rags against a quieter nook of the busy street.

Your pages have on several occasions contained accounts of the "Newspaper Boys' Society" of Philadelphia, where I had the pleasure of seeing about 300 little fellows carefully provided for under the excellent management of my friend, Mr. Starr.

And may we not put forth a hopeful effort to do something like this for our London boys, by a plan which may promote order while they are in public, and provide education when their day's work is done, and which may link around their young lives the golden bond of love, and draw their hearts to a gracious Saviour?

Let us ponder upon this, and praying for guidance, then seek for the counsels of practical Christian wisdom, and work with the energies of zealous action.

Rob Roy.

Temple, May 20, 1865.

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION.

The following contributions have been received in aid of the Ragged School Union.

General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
A. B.	20	0	0
Acland, Miss	1	1	0
A. G. (S.W.)	5	0	0
Alexander, Mrs. C.	3	3	0
Alexander, Miss	1	1	0
Alexander, J. W., Esq.	5	0	0
Anderson, G., Esq.	1	1	0
Arpthorpe, Mrs.	0	5	0
Baker, Mrs. H.	1	1	0
Barker, Mrs. C. H.	1	1	0
Bayley, Rev. T.	0	10	0
Blackden, Rev. C. and Sisters	5	0	0
Bostock, Mrs.	0	10	6
Bracken, W., Esq.	0	10	0
Bromfield, Miss	1	0	0
Campbell, Lady E. A.	2	2	0
Cave, Mrs.	5	0	0
Chance, Geo., Esq.	10	0	0
Clement, Mrs.	0	10	6
Cockerell, Miss S.	1	3	5
Colebrook, John, Esq.	10	10	0
Collison, Rev. H.	1	1	0
Corke, Silas, Esq.	1	1	0
Cox, Rev. Joseph	5	0	0
Cropper, Mrs.	0	10	0
Crundell, Mrs.	0	2	6
Cumming, Capt.	1	0	0
Curling, Miss M.	1	0	0
Curling, Miss	0	10	0
Dawson, Frances	0	2	6
Drewett, Miss	0	10	0
EasterOffering,(H.C.B.)	2	0	0
Ellis, John, Esq.	2	2	0
Evans, Mrs. H.	1	1	0
Flood, Mr.	0	10	0
Forster, Mrs. S.	1	0	1
Forster, John, Esq.	7	0	0
Gent, Mr. J. P.	0	5	0
Glover, J, Esq. (2 years)	1	1	0
Grylls, Mrs.	0	10	0
Guitton, Mrs.	2	2	0
Gulliford, Miss	0	11	0
Gurney, J. H. Esq.	1	1	0
Haig, H. A., Esq.	10	0	0
H. A. N.	5	0	0
Hardinge, Dow. Lady	1	0	0
Harris, Miss	1	0	0
Helyar, Mrs. S.	1	0	0
Hewlett, H. W. Esq.	5	0	0
Holwell, per Miss—			
Aylen, Miss	0	1	0
Holwell, Mrs.	0	5	0
Holwell, Miss	0	5	0
Sale of Bottles, &c., to Rag Brigade	0	8	0
Hollwell, per Miss—			
Southgate, John, Esq.	1	1	0
Southgate, Mrs.	1	1	0
Hoare, Rev. Henry	0	10	0
Hooke, Mrs.	0	10	0
Horncastle, Mr.	1	0	0
Howard, Mrs. J.	1	1	0
Hopley, Miss S.	3	0	4
Irvine, Mrs. M.	1	1	0
Jacquett, Miss	0	18	1
Jackson, Miss	2	0	0
Jefferies, J. T., Esq.	1	1	0
Jefferies, H., Esq.	1	1	0
Jenkin, Mrs. M.	1	10	0
Jervoise, Masts. W. & J.	2	5	7
J. & J. R.	0	10	0
Kearey, Mrs.	1	0	0
Keating, Miss C.	0	10	0
Kilburn, Mrs. B.	1	1	0
Killick, Miss, col. by—			
Killick, Capt.	1	1	0
Killick, Miss C.	0	10	0
Rickards, Mrs.	0	10	0
Friend	0	10	0
Killick, Miss	0	5	0
Lake Mrs.	0	10	0
Llewellyn, Miss	2	10	0
Lucey, Joseph, Esq.	5	5	0
Lutwidge, Miss M.	1	0	0
Lutwidge, Miss H.	0	7	0
Manns, Ann	0	1	0
Major, Miss A.	1	4	0
Martin, W. H., Esq.	5	0	0
Morrison, R., Esq.	2	0	0
Newsham, Mrs.	1	1	0
Owden, John, Esq.	10	0	0
Powell, Master	0	10	0
Page, Miss E.	0	9	6
Payne, Miss E.	0	10	0
Penley, Colonel	2	2	0
Potter, E., Esq.	10	0	0
Pratt, Thomas, Esq., Trustees of the late, per Rev. J. Kennedy	10	0	0
Reade, Mrs.	0	10	0
Rebbeck, Mrs.	1	0	0
Reddell, Mrs.	2	0	0
Reddell, Miss	1	1	0
Reddell, Miss H.	1	1	0
Roberts, Henry, Esq.	0	10	0
Robbins, Rev. George	0	2	6
Rogers, Edward, Esq.	1	0	0
Sapte, Mrs.	1	1	0
Sargent, Mrs.	1	0	0
Savory, Mrs.	1	1	0
Seward, Miss	1	0	0
Scott, Miss Alice	0	10	0
Sims, J., Esq.	1	1	0
Sinclair, Dow. Lady	1	0	0
Stonesage, Miss, box	0	18	0
Stovin, General Sir F.	10	0	6
Sutton, M. H., Esq.	5	0	0
Sykes, J. A., Esq.	1	0	0
Symons, Mrs. J.	1	1	0
Taite, C. T., Esq.	1	1	0
Tate, R. C., Esq.	1	1	0
Thatcher, Mr.	1	1	0
Thompson, M., Esq.	2	2	0
Thompson, Mrs. M.	0	10	0
Thorne, J. M., Esq.	2	2	0
Thorowgood, Dr.	2	2	6
Toms, Miss	1	1	0
Townsend, Miss	2	0	0
Trimmer, E., Esq.	5	0	0
Trimmer, E., Esq.	1	1	0
Tucker, Miss F. A.	1	1	0
Tucker, Mrs.	1	0	0
Tuffnel, E. C., Esq.	1	1	0
Tull, Henry, Esq.	5	0	0
Turner, Mrs.	0	10	0
Twinch, F., Esq.,	2	2	0
T. W.	0	16	0
Walker, Miss	1	5	0
Walker, J., Esq.	1	1	0
Wallace, The Misses	7	10	0
Walters, Miss	1	1	0
Wastell, Rev. J. D.	1	0	0
Watson, Rev. H. W.	1	1	0
Watt, Rev. A.	0	10	0
Waugh, Miss	1	1	6
Westby, Hon. Mrs.	1	1	0
Webb, R. T., Esq.	2	2	0
Wheatley, Mr.	0	10	0
White, Rev. A.	0	10	0
White, E., Esq.	1	1	0
Whichcote, Mrs. F.	3	0	0
Wickham, W., Esq.	1	0	0
Wigfield, per Mrs.—			
Wigfield, Mrs.	1	0	0
A Friend	0	10	0
Mr. Bromley's family	0	2	6
Wilkie, Rev. J.	5	5	0
Williams, P., Esq.	1	1	0
Williams, Miss M. J.	2	2	0
Wilson, W., Esq.	2	0	0
Wimbush, Joshua, Esq.	2	2	0
Wimbush, S., Esq.	1	1	0
Wolfe, Mrs.	1	1	0
Wood, Rev. A.	2	2	0
Woodburn, Miss F., Legacy of the late	270	0	0
Wright, Herbert, Esq.	1	0	0

Excursion Fund.

	£	s.	d.
C. S. H.	0	5	0
H. A. N.	5	0	0
Martin, Lady	3	0	0
Mexborough, Dowager Countess	5	0	0
Servant at Beckenham	0	2	6

Refuge Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Holford, R. S., Esq.	1	1	0

School Fund.

Albert Street.

	£	s.	d.
Price, Mr. William	0	10	6

Bluegate Fields.

	£	s.	d.
Grafton, Dowager Duchess	2	10	0
Price, Mr. William	0	10	6

Brewer's Court.

	£	s.	d.
Riddell, Miss	1	1	0
Riddell, Miss H.	1	1	0

Brook Street.

	£	s.	d.
Price, Mr. William	0	10	6
Grafton, Dowager Duchess	2	10	0

Castle Street.

	£	s.	d.
Wilkie, Rev. J.	1	1	0

Cripples' Home.

	£	s.	d.
Hillman, Miss	0	10	0
Mexborough, Dowager Countess	5	0	0
Potter, Mrs.	0	10	0

Field Lane.

	£	s.	d.
Carpmael, Mrs.	1	1	0
Hillman, Miss	1	0	0
Whichcote, Mrs. F.	1	0	0

Female Preventive.

	£	s.	d.
Mexborough, Dowager Countess	5	0	0
Scott, Lady, of Abbotsford	2	0	0
Colt, Mrs.	1	0	0

Fitzroy Market.

	£	s.	d.
Friends, per Lord Shaftesbury	6	0	0

George Yard.

Grotto Passage.

	£	s.	d.
Carpmael, Mrs.	1	1	0
Whichcote, Mrs. F.	1	0	0

Hatfield Street.

	£	s.	d.
Wilkie, Rev. J.	1	1	0

Hinde's Mews.

	£	s.	d.
Wilkie, Rev. J.	1	1	0

Home in the East.

	£	s.	d.
Hillman, Miss	0	10	0

Lamb and Flag.

	£	s.	d.
Friends, per Lord Shaftesbury	6	0	0

Little Saffron Hill.

	£	s.	d.
Wilkie, Rev. J.	1	1	0

New Nichol Street.

	£	s.	d.
Briscoe, J. I., Esq.	50	0	0
Bromfield, Miss	5	0	0
Eyre, G. E., Esq.	5	5	0
Price, Mr. William	0	10	6

Poor Street.

	£	s.	d.
Riddell, Miss	1	1	0
Riddell, Miss H.	1	1	0

Princes Street.

	£	s.	d.
Edmonds, Mrs.	0	10	0

Ward's Place.

	£	s.	d.
Price, Mr. William	0	10	6

York Mews.

	£	s.	d.
Hyde, Lieut.-Col. J. V.	5	0	0
May, G. H., Esq.	1	1	0

THE "ONE TUN" RAGGED SCHOOLS,

PERKINS'S RENTS, WESTMINSTER, S.W.

THE

EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY MEETING,

On WEDNESDAY EVENING, JUNE 14th, 1865.

THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY, K.G.,

Will take the Chair at HALF-PAST SIX precisely.

THE ANNUAL PRIZES

Will be distributed to the Boys and Girls who have kept their situations above twelve months with good characters.

The Rev. CANON CONWAY, Rev. J. WRIGHT, the MARQUIS OF WESTMINSTER, K.G., SIR R. W. CARDEN, JOSEPH PAYNE, Esq., Mrs. BESSIE INGLIS, Mr. J. G. GENT, &c., are expected to address the meeting;

Also, JAMES WILLIAMS (Member) and EDWARD STEPHENS (Secretary), of the Duck Lane Club.

The operations comprise:—Day, Evening, and Sunday Schools, Mothers' Meeting, Band of Hope, Penny Bank, Lending Library, and the Fathers' Home (known as the Duck Lane Working Men's Club), with its separate Societies of Barrow Club, Loan Society, Penny Bank, Temperance and Sick Societies, Educational and Bible Classes, &c.

Treasurer.—Mr. J. BURNHAM, 33, Sloane Square, S.W.

Honorary Secretary.—Miss ADELINE COOPER, 78, Coleshill Street, Eaton Square, S.W.

It is proposed to give the whole of the Children (including the Infants) a DAY'S FRESH AIR, by an EXCURSION the latter end of June, for which about £20 will be required. Any Donation for this purpose will be thankfully received by the Treasurer or the Honorary Secretary.

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